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Amendment
Serial No. 10/524,734
Docket No. AAR04-GN002

JUN 05 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of providing visual information to a viewer, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) receiving at a receiver, a stream of video data transmitted from a video camera;
 - (b) receiving and monitoring the stream at a server connected to the receiver;
 - (c) transmitting the stream from the server to one or more remote viewers over a communications network; and
 - (d) transmitting a snapshot image to one or more remote viewers in response to the detection ~~of a characteristic in the stream~~ of a repetition of a substantially static image.
- 2-5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5 1 wherein the substantially static image is detected by comparing a frame to a plurality of other frames in the stream, wherein the substantially static image is detected when the frame is similar to each of the other frames.
7. (original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the frame was captured by the video camera after each of the other frames.
8. (original) A method according to claim 7 further including the steps of:
 - including the frame in the plurality of other frames after it has been compared to the plurality of other frames; and
 - removing a frame from the plurality of other frames.
9. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the frame removed from the plurality of other frames is the earliest frame captured by the video camera.

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10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein the frame is determined to be similar to another frame notwithstanding differences between the frames, where those differences are within a prescribed difference tolerance.
11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein the snapshot image transmitted to the viewer is an average frame calculated from the frame and each of the other frames.
12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6 further including the steps of:
comparing the frame to the most recently transmitted snapshot image; and
transmitting a further snapshot image only when the frame and the most recently transmitted snapshot image are sufficiently different.
13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 further including the step of storing each transmitted snapshot image at a client device of the viewer for retrieval and viewing.
14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the resolution of the snapshot image is higher than the resolution of the frames in the stream.
15. (currently amended) Computer program code stored on a computer readable medium comprising:
(a) instructions for receiving a stream of video data;
(b) instructions for transmitting the stream to one or more remote viewers over a communications network;
(c) instructions for monitoring the stream; and
(d) instructions for transmitting a snapshot image to one or more remote viewers in response to the detection ~~of a characteristic~~ in the stream, of a repetition of a substantially static image.

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16-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) Computer program code according to claim ~~19~~ 15 including instructions for detecting the substantially static image by comparing a frame to a plurality of other frames in the stream, wherein the substantially static image is detected when the first frame is similar to each of the other frames.

21. (original) Computer program code according to claim 20 wherein the frame was captured by the video camera after each of the other frames.

22. (original) Computer program code according to claim 21 further including:
instructions for including the first frame in the plurality of other frames after it has been compared to the plurality of other frames; and
instructions for removing a frame from the plurality of other frames.

23. (original) Computer program code according to claim 22 wherein the frame removed from the plurality of other frames is the earliest frame captured by the video camera.

24. (previously presented) Computer program code according to claim 20 including instructions for determining that the frame is similar to another frame notwithstanding differences between the frames where those differences are within a prescribed difference tolerance.

25. (previously presented) Computer program code according to claim 20 including instructions for transmitting an average frame calculated from the frame and each of the other frames to the viewer as the snapshot image.

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26. (previously presented) Computer program code according to claim 15 including instructions for storing each transmitted snapshot image at a client device of the viewer for retrieval and viewing.

27. (previously presented) Computer program code according to claim 15 including instructions for providing a snapshot image having a resolution higher than the resolution of the frames in the stream.

28-87. (canceled)